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NECROLOGY.

WILLIAM NOEL SAINSBURY.—We are indebted to the "American Antiquarian" for the following full and appreciative sketch of Mr. Wm. Noel Sainsbury, long an honorary member of the Virginia Historical Society, and the author of the valuable abstracts of English Public Documents now in the Virginia State Library: William Noel Sainsbury died on the 9th of March last at his residence, 151 Southerland avenue, Maida Vale, London, in his seventieth year. Mr. Sainsbury was born at 35 Red Lion square, Holborn, London, on the 7th of July, 1825. He was the third son of John and Mary Sainsbury. On April 1, 1848, young Sainsbury began his long career in the public service by accepting a nomination to the State Paper Office as extra temporary clerk. This position he resigned on his appointment as extra clerk, on November 28th of the same year, and he was still serving in this capacity at the date of the amalgamation of the State Paper Office with the new Public Record Office, in the year 1854. In those days promotion came slowly for the staff, and Mr. Sainsbury did not reach the grade of a senior clerk until August, 1862. Then came another halt, and it was only in November, 1887, that he became an assistant keeper of the Public Records. In December, 1891, Mr. Sainsbury retired after a public service of more than forty years, but although his official connection with the Record Department had ceased, he continued to edit the great Calendar of Colonial State Papers, with which his name will ever be associated. In spite of failing health, he was usually to be found at his desk in a pleasant room overlooking the great Repository in Fetter Lane, surrounded with printed works of reference and with files of the State Papers, which he used and guarded with the utmost care and reverence. Indeed, there was nothing that distressed and angered him so much as to see the evidence of careless handling on the covers or margins of these priceless records. During these last years Mr. Sainsbury had the advantage of the assistance of his daughter, Miss Ethel Sainsbury. All who have carefully studied the series of Calendars of Colonial State Papers, and especially those who have had the benefit of Mr. Sainsbury's personal assistance and advice in their researches, will easily understand the force of his saying, addressed to the members of the American Antiquarian Society in a paper presented by him at Boston little more than two years ago: "I have made lifelong study of these Colonial Records," and "there is scarcely a writer of history in your Great Republic, whom, during the past forty years, I have not had the honor of assisting in a greater or less degree."

But besides his association with the work of individual historians, from first to last, Mr. Sainsbury showed the deepest interest in the useful labors of the admirable Historical Societies which had sprung up, or, at least, had been largely developed during the period of his own literary activity. The perpetuation of the original materials for the history of the primitive Colonies by the Governments of the Modern States, was a work which he was never weary of advocating and encouraging—just as he was never weary of praising the Documentary Histories of New York, North Carolina, and other State publications as monuments of patient research and of sound scholarship. During the last two years of his life he was actively engaged in superintending the transcription of the Historical Papers relating more especially to South Carolina, with whose flourishing Historical Society, and with the government of its neighbor State, he had for a long time past been in constant correspondence.

Naturally, Mr. Sainsbury's name was frequently and gratefully mentioned in most modern works of research connected with the History of America and the West Indies. He was also an honorary or corresponding member of most of the principal Historical Societies of the New World. The wide reputation which he thus enjoyed was not merely derived from his exceptional position as a custodian of the State Papers and as an official expert in their arrangement and contents, but mainly from the sound and scholarly work accomplished by himself as the editor of the Colonial Calendar in the Rolls Series. The first volume of this Calendar made its appearance in 1860. It was followed in 1862 by the first volume of the Calendar Papers relating to the East Indies, China and Japan. Henceforth the Colonial Calendars were usually issued in alternate volumes, nine of which have been published to the present date.

In addition to the Colonial Calendar, Mr. Sainsbury published several valuable papers on Colonial History, together with an historical narrative, published in 1870, based on the History of the West Indies, under the title of "Hearts of Oak." He was also the author of a Life of Peter Paul Rubens, published in 1858, which still ranks as one of the best authorities on the subject.

Mr. Sainsbury was twice married; in 1849, to Emily Storrs, second daughter of Mr. Andrew Moore, by whom he had two sons and eight daughters, of whom all but three survive him. He married a second time, in 1873, Henrietta Victoria, youngest daughter of Mr. John Hawkins, and widow of Mr. Alfred Crusher Anger, whom he survived several years. It will be easily believed that Mr. Sainsbury was universally liked and respected by his friends and colleagues. He was, indeed, like most officials of the old school, punctilious and unbending in his adherence to official forms, but he could well recall the time when a Cabinet Minister was not permitted to examine State Papers relating to his own department without the authority of the Secretary of State, yet his un-

failing courtesy and his unwearied zeal in the best interests of historical research will always endear his memory to all with whom he was brought in contact, and to all who still have those interests at heart.

JOHN BARBEE MINOR, LL. D., for fifty years Professor of Law in the University of Virginia, died at his home at the University on July 29, 1895, in the eighty-third year of his age. He was born in Louisa county, Virginia, June 2, 1813, the son of Launcelot Minor, and the youngest of nine children. He attended the neighborhood schools until about the age of sixteen, when he was sent to Kenyon College, walking the entire distance in the company of a young kinsman. In January, 1831, he entered the University of Virginia, where he remained for three sessions, graduating in several of the academic schools, and finally, in June, 1834, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Law. His teacher in the school of law in which he was destined to win such distinction was Professor John A. G. Davis, the second occupant of that chair; and during his whole course as a student at the University he taught school in the family of Prof. Davis. After his graduation he began the practice of his profession at Buchanan in Botetourt county, Virginia. After about six years at the Botetourt bar, he moved to Charlottesville and formed a partnership with his brother, Lucian Minor, afterwards professor of law in the College of William and Mary. In 1845, at the age of thirty-two, he was elected to the professorship of law in the University of Virginia. From the time of his appointment until 1851, he was the sole teacher of law at the University. In the latter year, James P. Holcombe was appointed Adjunct Professor of Law, and the classes were increased from two to three; three years later Mr. Holcombe was made full professor, and in 1856, the course was expanded into two departments of two classes each, Mr. Minor becoming professor of common and statute law, and this form was continued until very recent years, when great and important changes were made in the course. During the period of the civil war, he again maintained the entire burden of the law school, but was relieved of the double duty in 1866 by the appointment of an additional teacher. In 1870 he began his private "Summer Course of Law Lectures," extending over two months of the University vacation, which have become so popular with beginners and practitioners of all ages. The class of 1874 numbered twenty members, and from that time the numbers rapidly increased to an average attendance of about ninety in recent years, attaining in 1892 to a maximum of one hundred and twenty-one. This was the first course of the kind ever offered in this country, and was the pioneer of the numerous summer schools which have become a feature of so many of our universities and colleges.

For many years after the beginning of his career at the University a skeleton analysis of each lecture was written by him on the blackboard, and thence copied by the class; for some years prior to 1875, these were